

EBNETH et al
Serial No. **Unknown**
U.S. national phase of PCT/EP00/07807

REMARKS

The claims have been amended, without prejudice, to remove multiple dependencies and reduce the filing fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) An expression cassette as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the coding HPPD sequence is linked functionally to the coding sequence of a plant-organelle-specific transit peptide.

4. (Amended) An expression cassette as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the coding HPPD sequence and the anti-HGD sequence are in each case under the genetic control of a plant-specific promoter.

5. (Amended) An expression cassette as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the coding HPPD nucleic acid sequence encodes a protein containing an amino acid sequence in accordance with SEQ ID NO:15 or a functional equivalent thereof or encompasses a nucleic acid sequence from residue 8 to residue 1153 in accordance with SEQ ID NO:14 or a functional equivalent thereof.

6. (Amended) An expression cassette as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, which encompasses an HGD sequence motif in accordance with SEQ ID NO:1 in antisense orientation.

7. (Amended) A recombinant vector encompassing at least one expression cassette as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1.

10. (Amended) A microorganism comprising a recombinant vector as claimed in [any of claims 7 to 9] claim 7.

12. (Amended) The use of a vector as claimed in [any of claims 7 to 9 or of] claim 7 or a microorganism [as claimed in claim 10 or 11] containing said vector for the transformation of plants, plant cells, plant tissue or plant organs.

14. (Amended) A transgenic plant, transformed with a vector as claimed in [any of claims 7 to 9] claim 7 or with a microorganism [as claimed in claim 10 or 11] containing said vector, or transgenic cells, tissue, organs or transgenic propagation material thereof.

16. (Amended) A method for generating transgenic plants [as claimed in claim 14 or 15] claim 14, wherein plant cells, tissue or organs or protoplasts of said plant are transformed with a vector as claimed in [any of claims 7 to 9] claim 7 or with a microorganism [as claimed in claim 10 or 11] containing said vector, the transformed cells, tissue, plant organs or protoplasts are cultured in a growth medium, and, if appropriate, plants are regenerated from the culture.

17. (Amended) The use of an expression cassette as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, a vector [as claimed in any of claims 7 to 9] containing said cassette, a microorganism [as claimed in claim 10 or 11] containing said vector or a transgenic

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plant [as claimed in claim 14 or 15] containing said vector for obtaining plant metabolites, in particular tocopherols.

18. (Amended) A process for the preparation of tocopherols, which comprises isolating the tocopherol from a culture of a transformed plant as claimed in claim 14 [or 15].